

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

SECURITY INFORMATION REPORT

TOPIC Oranienburg Airfield

25X1

EVALUATION [REDACTED] PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED] 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT [REDACTED] 25X1

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] DATE PREPARED 8 July 1952

REFERENCES 25X1

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

1. Between 20 and 31 May 1952, Oranienburg airfield was not occupied. No reconditioning work was observed up to 31 May.

2. Between 10 a.m. and about 5 p.m. on 27 May, the airfield, particularly the runway and the area south of it were inspected by a commission of three civilians headed by a Soviet major in air force uniform. On 3 June, the airfield was being surveyed. [REDACTED] the area south of the previous border of the field on the extension of the long runway was being surveyed. White and red wooden pegs were put into the ground both along the edge of the runway and about 10 meters from and parallel to the runway. The work was done by a group of surveyors both from a firm in Saalfeld and one in Leipzig. Some women from Oranienburg were employed as auxiliary personnel. [REDACTED] surveying was to be completed by 15 June 1952. Expansion work was allegedly to be completed by late October 1952.

3. On 28 May, there was a conference involving the Soviet construction staff in Jerder which dealt with the laying of a thin concrete cover on the concrete surface. Lieutenant Colonel Smyrnov (fnu) and Lieutenant Colonel Streletsov (fnu) were present at this conference. While some of the officers preferred the use of planks, others proposed that the old concrete surface be insulated by a layer of bitumen and tar before covering it with the new concrete layer. No decision was reached on this matter. The Bauunion firm in Leipzig was charged with surveying work by the construction staff in Jerder.

4. [REDACTED] the airfield was to be improved by a construction firm. [REDACTED] the field was being surveyed and that construction work was probably to be done by the Leipzig Bauunion.

5. On 3 June, surveying work at the field was under way. [REDACTED] the survey of the first section was to be completed by 15 June and of the second section by 30 June. A strip in the southern extension of the long runway was staked off. [REDACTED] Personnel of the staff were in bus [REDACTED] According to a surveyor, the runways were to be raised by 30 to 50 centimeters. The spur track was to be extended for hauling the required earth since motor transport was too expensive.

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6. In early June, a surveyor learned in Leipzig and Saalfeld that the Leipzig Bauunion would not perform construction work and that negotiations with the Berlin Bauunion were under way. Work was to start on 1 August and should be completed in three months.
- 25X1 7. [redacted] the Soviet guard detail had left the field and that all windows and doors of the guardhouse had been removed.
8. On 5 June, no changes were observed in the air force construction unit in the restricted Weisse Stadt Settlement. The occupation of Hans Schemm School and the buildings housing air force troops was unchanged. Reconditioning, such as the repair of the roof and paint work, was to be done in Hans Schemm School. The cost of the construction project was estimated at 15,000 eastmarks.
- 25X1 9. Between 6 and 12 June, the restricted Weisse Stadt Settlement was still scarcely occupied. Russian women made purchases at trade organization stores (HO). Every day since early June, a detail of civilians who used sedan [redacted] has been at the field doing surveying work. There was no air activity at the field. Cows and horses were grazing on the sodded landing field. *
- 25X1 [redacted] Comment. [redacted] preparations for improvement work at Oranienburg airfield have started. According to previous reports, improvement work was intended to begin in mid-April 1952.
- 25X1 [redacted] work will take only three months should be correct, it is believed that only the top cover of the runway is to be removed or reinforced. The same work was performed at Zerbst airfield in the fall of 1951. This indicates that the runways newly constructed in the Soviet Zone of Germany were of an insufficient quality. Information on actual construction work at Oranienburg airfield is expected from further reports.
- 25X1 The construction unit in Weisse Stadt [redacted] belongs to a construction unit the larger portion of which is assigned to the construction of new airfields in Retzow and Buchholz.

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